

MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT



Office of Public Information

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JUSTICE ELIZABETH A. WEAVER REAPPOINTED TO GOVERNOR'S TASK FORCE ON CHILDREN'S JUSTICE; CHAIRED TASK FORCE SINCE 1991

LANSING, MI, May 26, 2009 – [Michigan Supreme Court Justice Elizabeth A. Weaver](#) of Glen Arbor has been reappointed to the [Governor's Task Force on Children's Justice](#) by Governor Jennifer M. Granholm.

[Justice Weaver](#), whose 35 years as a judge include 12 years of service in probate and juvenile court, has chaired the task force since her appointment by former Governor John Engler in 1991, when the task force was first established. She was reappointed by Governor Granholm.

The Task Force on Children's Justice is federally mandated and federally funded with over \$500,000 per year. It is responsible for the review and evaluation of Michigan's investigative, administrative, and judicial handling of child abuse and neglect cases in Michigan.

The task force's 31 members serve on a volunteer basis, without pay. They represent the broad diversity of experience and culture of those dealing with abuse and neglect cases: judges – probate, family, civil, and criminal; law enforcement personnel; Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA); child advocates and attorneys for children; prosecutors; defense attorneys; social workers; educators; doctors and mental health professionals; counselors; public and private child protection agencies; parents groups; citizens; and those experienced in working with children with disabilities.

The task force's responsibilities include developing protocols for abuse and neglect cases; awarding grants for programs in experimental, model, and demonstration pilot programs; and providing funds for training judges, prosecutors, guardians ad litem, defense counsel, social workers, law enforcement personnel, and other child welfare professionals. Task force protocols have addressed numerous topics, such as coordination of child abuse investigations; forensic interviewing; coordination of services with Native American tribes; and child death review.

In addition, the Task Force on Children's Justice makes recommendations to the governor and the legislature to improve the children welfare system's efficiency, with the goals of protecting children, holding abusers accountable, and enhancing the laws governing child abuse, while ensuring due process of the law to all parties.

For further information, see the Task Force on Children's Justice web site at www.michigan.gov/gtfcj.

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